

REMARKS

This is a response to the office action mailed June 23, 2004. The examiner objected to the specification because abandoned cases were not indicated. The first paragraph of the specification has been amended to cure this problem.

The examiner rejected claims 1-4, 16-18, 20, 21, 25, 26, 29 and 30 rejected as being unpatentable over Miller `818 in view of Miller `317. Claims 1, 16 and 29 have been amended to add the term "wide and narrow alternating zones". This term was originally in independent claim 2.

Neither Miller patent teaches or suggests wide and narrow alternating zones. This structure creates regions of uniform field in wide zones and non-uniform field in narrow zones as taught by the applicant's specification.

The examiner rejected claims 5, 6, 15, 24 and 31 as being unpatentable over the prior art cited for claim 1 in further view of Reed. Claims 7-9 were rejected as being unpatentable over the prior art cited for claim 1 in

further view of Raasmussen. Claims 10-13 were rejected as being unpatentable over the prior art cited for claim 1 in further view of Engstrom.

Reed does not teach the use of alternating wide and narrow zones to create two distinctly different electric fields. Raasmussen teaches separating in the liquid phase, not the gas phase. Engstrom teaches the use of ceramic barrier filters in high temperature, high pressure gasifiers as a means of gas cleaning. Engstrom does not teach electrostatic techniques.

No combination of the Miller patents, Reed, Raasmussen or Engstrom teaches or contains any suggestion of wide and narrow alternating sections with uniform and non-uniform electric fields. In addition, there is no suggestion to combine any of these references.

In light of the above, the applicant believes the claims are patentable over the prior art. The examiner is requested to place the case in condition for allowance at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully Submitted

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